

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McAndrew* (U.S. Patent No. 6,536,825) in view of *Taylor* (U.S. Patent No. 6,945,581). Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McAndrew* and *Taylor* further in view of *Centofante* (U.S. Patent No. 6,139,304). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McAndrew*, *Taylor*, and *Centofante* further in view of *Priesemuth* (U.S. Patent No. 5,452,190). *Taylor* issued on September 20, 2005, which is subsequent to the filing date of the present ‘385 application (i.e., September 15, 2004) and, hence, is applicable as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicant submits herewith a Declaration by Earl J. LaFontaine, Acting Chief Intellectual Property Counsel for Lear Corporation (Reg. No. 30,766), showing that *Taylor* and the present ‘385 application, at the time the invention of the present ‘385 application was made, were commonly owned by Lear Corporation. Consequently, *Taylor* is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Because *Taylor* is employed by the Examiner as a secondary reference for each of these rejections, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant has made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and, accordingly, a timely notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. In the event that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicant does not believe fees are dues in connection with filing this communication other than a one-month extension fee. If, however, such petition is due or additional fees are necessary as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under-payment or fees associated with this communication or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,
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